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SIPDIS
TELEGRAM

May 19, 2003

To: No Action Addressee
Action: Unknown
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 2391 - UNKNOWN)
TAGS: OIIP, KMDR
Captions: None
Subject: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORIST ATTACKS, ROADMAP, IRAQ
Ref: None

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 02391

SIPDIS
CXABU:
ACTION: PAO
INFO: POL AMB DCM ECON
Laser1:
ACTION: PAO

DISSEMINATION: PAO
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: ADCM:TWILLIAMS
DRAFTED: PAO:AALKHATIB
CLEARED: PAO:TPONCE

VZCZCADI813
OO RUEHC RUENAAA RUEKJCS RUEHZN RUEHLO RUEHFR
RHRMDAB RUCJACC RUCQSOC
DE RUEHAD #2391/01 1390808
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 190808Z MAY 03
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9994
RUENAAA/SECNAV WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC IMMEDIATE
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0663
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0716
RHRMDAB/COMUSNAVCENT
RUCJACC/USCINCCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCPA//
RUCQSOC/USCINCSOC MACDILL AFB FL//PA//

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 ABU DHABI 002391

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARP; NEA/PPD; NEA/RA; INR/R/MR; PA;
INR/NESA; INR/B; IIP/G/NESA
WHITE HOUSE FOR PRESS OFFICE; NSC
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA
USCINCCENT FOR POLAD
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH; PARIS FOR O'FRIEL

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: OIIP KMDR TC
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: TERRORIST ATTACKS, ROADMAP, IRAQ

¶1. SUMMARY: TERRORIST ATTACKS IN RIYADH AND CASABLANCA,
ESCALATING CONFLICT IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND THE
RECONSTRUCTION OF IRAQ DOMINATED COVERAGE IN UAE PRINT AND

ELECTRONIC MEDIA. AN EDITORIAL IN "AL KHALEEJ" ALLEGED THAT THE ONLY BENEFICIARY OF THESE ATTACKS IS ISRAEL. AN "AL BAYAN" EDITORIAL COMMENTED ON THE ESCALATING CONFLICT IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES AND ASSERTED THAT ISRAEL IS TO BLAME, NOT THE PALESTINIANS. A "GULF NEWS" EDITORIAL CALLED ON ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO VOICE THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE WAR ON TERROR PUBLICLY TO CONVINCE ARABS AND MUSLIMS THAT THE U.S. IS NOT CONDUCTING A WAR ON ISLAM. FINALLY, AN "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIAL CONDEMNED THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE REGION. END SUMMARY.

¶2. ASSERTING THAT NO ONE IS BENEFITTING FROM THESE TERRORIST ATTACKS BUT ISRAEL, SHARJAH-BASED PAN-ARAB DAILY "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/19:

"... THE MORALS AND ETHICS EXHIBITED BY ARABS IN PARTICULAR AND MUSLIMS IN GENERAL, AND THE DEFENSE OF THESE (MORALS) IN CONFRONTING THE BRUTAL ATTACKS FROM THE ZIONIST ENTITY OR ANY OTHERS ARE DAMAGED BY ACTS (TERRORIST ATTACKS) AT THE CORE (OF THE ISSUE), AND THEIR LOSSES ARE UNCOUNTABLE ... WHATEVER SHAKES THE SECURITY OR STABILITY IN ANY ARAB COUNTRY IS CONSIDERED A FREE SERVICE FOR THIS ENEMY (ISRAEL) AND WHOEVER SUPPORTS IT."

¶3. COMMENTING ON THE ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA, DUBAI-BASED BUSINESS-ORIENTED ARABIC DAILY "AL-BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 5/19:

"... ISRAELI POLICY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ESCALATION OF THE SITUATION. IF THE ISRAELI MILITARY MACHINE STOPS KILLING AND THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT REACHES OUT FOR PEACE BY ACCEPTING THE ROADMAP, WE DON'T THINK THAT THINGS WILL GET WORSE OR THAT THE VIOLENCE WILL CONTINUE ..."

¶4. CALLING ON ARAB GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT THE WAR ON TERROR PUBLICLY, EXPATRIATE-ORIENTED ENGLISH DAILY "GULF NEWS" EDITORIALIZED 5/19:

"... MUCH TO THE FEAR OF MANY MUSLIMS, WHO ARE EQUALLY AGAINST TERRORISM, THE U.S. FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM IS INCREASINGLY LOOKING LIKE A WAR WAGED AGAINST ISLAM. THAT IT IS NOT AND THAT MOST ISLAMIC LEADERS KNOW THIS, DOES NOT APPEASE TO DOUBTS OF THE MASSES, WHO PERCEIVE ONLY ONSLAUGHTS AGAINST AND INCARCERATIONS OF MUSLIMS ON AN ALMOST DAILY BASIS ... IT IS SUPPOSED BY NEARLY EVERYONE TODAY AS AN AMERICAN FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM, ERGO, ISLAM. THIS IS A WRONG PERCEPTION WHICH CAN EASILY BE RECTIFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS, PARTICULARLY, BUT NOT ESSENTIALLY ... WHERE POSSIBLE ARAB AND MUSLIM NATIONS COULD SHOW A HIGHER PROFILE THAN THEY ARE AT PRESENT DOING ON THEIR COLLABORATION AND WORK AGAINST TERRORISM ... SUCH REASSURANCE AND EVIDENT COLLABORATION WILL GO ALONG WAY IN COUNTERING THE FREQUENTLY DISSEMINATED COMMENTS THAT THE WAR ON TERRORISM IS A FAADE, TO COVER THE FACT THAT IT IS A WESTERN PLOY TO CURB THE SPREAD AND INFLUENCE OF ISLAM. SUCH COMMENTS, OF COURSE, ARE QUITE THE REVERSE, CONSIDERING THE FACT THAT ISLAM IS THE FASTEST GROWING RELIGION IN THE WEST ..."

¶5. CLAIMING THAT NEITHER SHARON'S MEETING WITH ABU MAZEN NOR HIS EXPECTED MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP, "AL KHALEEJ" EDITORIALIZED 5/18:

"... ONLY IN ONE CASE WILL THE ROADMAP SEE THE LIGHT (OF DAY) ... AND THAT IS WHEN ALL ISRAELI CONDITIONS ARE APPROVED, AND THIS IS WHAT THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WILL TRY TO DO BY PRESSURING MAHMOUD ABBAS(ABU MAZEN) AND HIS GOVERNMENT. THE BALANCE OF POWER AND POPULAR WILL IS WHAT WILL OR WILL NOT DETERMINE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ROADMAP, AND CHOOSING GOOD WILL AND PEACE AS A STRATEGIC GOAL WITHOUT POSSESSING THE POWER TO PROTECT IT (PEACE), IS THE WEAPON OF THE WEAK ..."

¶6. COMMENTING ON A RECENT INCREASE IN TERRORISM IN THE GULF, DR. SHAMLAN AL EISSA WROTE IN ABU DHABI-BASED SEMI-GOVERNMENT "AL ITTIHAD" ON 5/18:

"... IT'S A BIG MISTAKE TO CONCENTRATE ON THE SECURITY ASPECT TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THE ISSUE OF EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM AGAINST THE INNOCENT IS A SOCIAL PHENOMENON THAT NEEDS RESEARCH REGARDING ITS REASONS, FIRST CULTURALLY, SOCIALLY, AND RELIGIOUSLY. WERE THE GULF GOVERNMENTS REALLY SURPRISED WITH THESE OPERATIONS?! WHAT WE WANT TO SAY IS THAT THE WAR ON TERRORISM IN THE REGION

ASKS FOR CHANGES IN THE METHODS OF ITS (GULF COUNTRIES) GOVERNMENTS. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CHANGES ASK FOR POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT ..."

¶7. CONDEMNING THE TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE REGION, "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 5/17:

"... WHAT IS REQUESTED IS NOT TO SURRENDER TO THE ESTABLISHED FACT AND GIVE IT FREE REIN BUT TO SEEK EAGERLY THE ELIMINATION OF THIS DANGER AND TREAT THIS MALIGNANT DISEASE BY TREATING ITS CAUSES ... THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF HOMES, SCHOOLS, AND THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY WITH ALL ITS SCIENTISTS, THINKERS, AND POLITICIANS WHO HAVE GOOD THOUGHTS AND CONSCiences ..."

¶8. COMMENTING ON THE U.S. WARNINGS TO THEIR CITIZENS OF ANTICIPATED TERRORIST ATTACKS IN SEVERAL COUNTRIES, "AL-BAYAN" EDITORIALIZED 5/17:

"... IF THE U.S. REALLY WANTS TO DESTROY TERRORISM, IT SHOULD START WITH ITSELF, AND SEEK A BALANCED POLICY TOWARDS OTHERS, IN ADDITION, (IT SHOULD) STOP INTERFERING IN OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS AND STOP USING 'MILITARY MUSCLE' TO DISPLAY ITS POWER AGAINST SMALLER COUNTRIES ..."

¶9. DISCUSSING ON THE TROUBLES FACING COALITION FORCES IN IRAQ ATTEMPTING TO PROVIDE SECURITY, "AL ITTIHAD" EDITORIALIZED 5/16:

"... THE PRIORITY IS TO HELP IRAQIS GET OUT OF THE CESSPOOL OF PAIN AND SADNESS IN WHICH THEY WERE DROWNED BY SADDAM, BUT THESE EFFORTS SHOULD PARALLEL STEPS TO HAND OVER IRAQ TO IRAQIS ..."

ALBRIGHT